in the coming years due to evasion by the major steel producing companies through the Steel Development Fund loans-

(b) whether the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel has, in its report on the ratioualisation of SDF has commented upon the irregu larities into the system and procedures; of operating the Fund;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action is contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRl SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Loans from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) are given to the steel producers for financing schemes, projects and capital expenditure for moodertii-sation, diversification and improvement of the technology and efficciency of iron and steel production. Grant of loans from SDF does not lead to evasion of tax by the steel producers.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel has submitted an internal report on the rationalisation of SDF in which certain suggestions have been made for imroving the operational procedures of the Fund.

(d) Does not arise.

Durgapur Steel Plant

3432. MISS; SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant is Sick unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to revive/modernise the units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Durgapur Steel Plant is one of the units of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). While SAIL is earning profit coutinuously from 1934-85, its unit i.e. Durgapur Steel plant has been making losses mainly due to outdated technology.

(b) Steel Authority of India limi ted have taken several steps to im prove the performance and profitabi lity of Durgapur Steel Plant. SAIL has embarked on a massive Renova tion and Technological Upgradation (Modernisation) of DSP, with the objective of improving productivity, reducing the cost of production and improving the quality of products. Other Steps taken to improve operations of DSP include improving the product-mix in line with the market demand, improvement in the yield of bye products, optimising captive power generation, reducing energy consumption, vigorous implementation of budgetary control system, etc.

Resignationi of officials in SAIL

3433. SHRl V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that several top officials of the Steel Authority of India Limited have resigned in protest against the new promotion policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that several top officials of the Steel Authority of India Limited have resigned in protest against the new promotion policy.

(b) Does not arise.